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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on Elementary and Secondary Education Act
Flexibility Request

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) for waivers of specific requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. These waivers will allow flexibility to modify the 2013-2014 timeline for determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), implementation of school and district improvement requirements, funding to rural districts, schoolwide programs, support for school improvement, Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) improvement plans, the transfer of certain federal funds, and the use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to support priority schools.

In order to apply for and receive the waivers, states must develop a comprehensive request based on four principles: Career- and College-Ready Expectations for All Students; State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support; Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership; and Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden. While the MDE initially intended to apply for these waivers by the November 14, 2011 deadline, it has decided to defer application until mid-February 2012 in order to more fully develop the application with the assistance of stakeholder involvement and feedback. This will help to ensure that the application and plans contained therein meet the goals of increased academic achievement for all students, elimination of achievement gaps, and improved instruction.

Staff will review the waiver request requirements and share preliminary plans for responding to the four principles to get State Board members input and reactions.

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